If you think these questions can be answered in this space, you must be out of your mind. If you try to do so, remember there is always next year to get it right. Take advantage of your chance to work with others. It doesn’t have to be this way! Individual answers suit me even better. Is that what you want? Please keep this in mind as you work diligently for me today.

1. **Compare** the first paragraph of “The Black Cat” to the first paragraph of “The Tell Tale Heart”. Make sure you include two similarities and two differences in your comparison. (Read each again)

2. In the fourth paragraph of “The Black Cat”, the narrator mentions his wife’s frequent allusion concerning the large cat they owned. The narrator states, “I mention the matter at all for no better reason that it happens just now, to be remembered.” After finishing the story, we know this is not entirely true. What **inference** can we make concerning the reference to the cat at this time?

3. **Analyze** the narrator’s willingness to want to, “commit a sin, a deadly sin that would so jeopardize (his) immortal soul as to place it, if such a thing were possible, even beyond the reach of the infinite mercy of the most merciful and most terrible God.”

4. The narrator’s new cat has a rather unique white pattern on its fur. At the recollection of this tale, the pattern holds an especially ironic significance. **Describe** this pattern and its meaning to the narrator before his crime and after his crime. (Most of this can be found in the 12th and 20th paragraph)

5. **Examine** the police investigations, narrator’s ultimate mistakes, and the burials made in “The Tell Tale Heart” and “The Black Cat”.

6. “The Black Cat” is different from “The Tell Tale Heart” because it introduces a supernatural (other worldly, beyond the control of man) element. What argument can be made to support the statement: Supernatural events are controlling the actions of the narrator in “The Black Cat”.

ALL of the above require a great deal of thought, discussion, detail, and explanation. For this reason, you will be responsible for actually thinking, discussing the story (not gossip), and writing a detailed answer for the question you have been assigned.

1. When you compare two selections you evaluate the two with attention to similarities and differences. When answering this type of question include all of the similarities and differences you can find in the passage and back them up with details.

The pieces you will have to put together:

The narrator it the Tell Tale Heart is speaking to us from where?

The narrator from the Black Cat is speaking to us from where?

The narrator from the Tell Tale Heart is nervous? If the narrator from the Black Cat is excitable, is he also qualify as nervous?

What is the purpose of each narrator? Are their purposes the same?

What does each narrator claim regarding their mental state?

What detail about the narrator of The Black Cat’s sentence do we not have with the Tell Tale Heart?

Are these different?

What differences exist in the “diseases” each of these narrators have?

2. To make an inference we have to read into the text likely reasons for the author’s purpose for including the idea in text.

We can conclude from reading this text, that the narrator made reference to a cat and the supernatural at the beginning because he thought there might be something supernatural about it.

We must support our inference with the following details:

Does he actually believe his own explanation of the cat image on his wall after the fire? What might this be?

The replacement cats size, eye injury, and the changing of the pattern on the cat’s fur.

The landlords not knowing where the cat came from.

The dreams the narrator had which tormented him in the night.

The cat tripping him causing him to become mad and do what?

The cat’s hiding in the wall with his wife. How did it get there? Wouldn’t a terrified animal run away?

The irony involved in the cat’s revenge.

3. When you analyze something you break down the information into little bits to understand the whole. For this reason we must look at the statement we are analyzing and figure out why this narrator wants to punish himself in the ultimate way by dooming his soul to hell.

Bits of the whole:

Drinking (Specify, how do we know this is a problem?)

Bad treatment of his animals (specify)

Bad language toward his wife

Physical violence toward his wife

Abuse of Pluto (What did he do?)

Perverseness taking over his gentle character.

Crying at injuring something he loved

Add the details and put this together.

4. To describe something we generally use imagery (Mental pictures-see, hear, feel, smell, and taste). In this question we are not only describing the spot but its meaning.

The image first appears in paragraph 12 when we see it on the wall. It produces a feeling in the narrator which he then attempts to explain scientifically. What is the feeling?

The pattern appears again on the narrator’s new cat. It produces a reaction similar to the first one. (What is the reaction?) What is the most likely reason these two images produce what they do in the narrator?

All of the above occur before he kills his wife. The image becomes ironic after his deed is discovered, that is, after he commits his crime. Why?

5. To examine something we must look closely and in this case compare the items asked for in the two selections.

Police investigations:

In the Tell Tale Heart why do they investigate?

In the Black Cat why do they investigate? (Largely inference here)

Do they find anything in either novel at the beginning of either investigation?

Mistakes:

What similar mistake is made by each narrator as the police investigate?

How is the above answer different in each story? (Think about who tells on whom as the result of the mistake.)

Discoveries:

Concealment of the bodies

How the bodies are discovered.

6. To make an argument to support the statement, “Supernatural events are controlling the actions of the narrator in “The Black Cat,” we must provide details which we can argue are beyond the control of man or natural events. You could use the following and develop arguments for them:

Reference to black cats as witches in disguise.

Image of the cat on the wall after the fire

Appearance of a cat that has a missing eye, size, and most of the color of Pluto

The landlord does not know where the cat came from.

Image of a gallows on the new cat.

The cat trying to trip him on the cellar steps.

The cat in the wall with his wife.

Make sure you include details in your argument which make the above items seem supernatural and tell me how these things are **controlling the narrator’s actions**. Remember the reason for making them seem supernatural is to support the statement